

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Investigation on the Commission's own motion into the fatal accident at the North Street Crossing (MP 220.50) in the City of Selma, Fresno County, on June 6, 2003, and order to show cause why this crossing should not be closed.

Investigation 03-08-017
(Filed August 21, 2003)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING
SETTING PREHEARING CONFERENCE, DIRECTING PARTIES TO MEET
AND CONFER, AND ORDERING CROSSING TO REMAIN CLOSED**

On August 21, 2003, the Commission issued Order Instituting Investigation (I.) 03-08-017 into whether the North Street Crossing should be closed. The Commission took this action in response to the fifth fatal injury accident at the crossing since 1999. The decision ordered the City of Selma to appear at a hearing to be held on August 23, 2003 and show cause why the crossing should not be closed. Unfortunately, the Commission's decision was not mailed until August 26, 2003. The decision noted that the City had voluntarily closed the crossing.

Crossing to Remain Closed

The series of fatal accidents at this crossing require that it remain closed pending resolution of this proceeding. The City of Selma is directed to take all actions necessary to prevent vehicles and pedestrians from using this crossing, pending further order of the Commission.

Prehearing Conference

The issues in this proceeding are urgent matters of public safety, requiring thorough and expeditious review. All available safety measures, including further crossing closures in Selma, will be considered. The parties are directed to meet and confer and resolve as many procedural and substantive issues prior to the prehearing conference as possible. At the prehearing conference, the parties should be prepared to engage in a detailed discussion of the crossings in this corridor and make specific recommendations.

A prehearing conference shall be held:

Monday, September 15, 2003

10:00 a.m.

Commission Hearing Rooms

505 Van Ness Avenue

San Francisco, California

Therefore, **IT IS RULED** that the North Street Crossing shall remain closed pending further order of the Commission and the parties shall appear and participate in a prehearing conference at the date and time set out above.

Dated September 2, 2003, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ MARIBETH A. BUSHEY

Maribeth A. Bushey
Administrative Law Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have by mail this day served a true copy of the original attached Administrative Law Judge's Ruling Setting Prehearing Conference, Directing Parties to Meet and Confer, and Ordering Crossing to Remain Closed on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated September 2, 2003, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ TERESITA C. GALLARDO

Teresita C. Gallardo

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to insure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

The Commission's policy is to schedule hearings (meetings, workshops, etc.) in locations that are accessible to people with disabilities. To verify that a particular location is accessible, call: Calendar Clerk (415) 703-1203.

If specialized accommodations for the disabled are needed, e.g., sign language interpreters, those making the arrangements must call the Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074, TTY 1-866-836-7825 or (415) 703-5282 at least three working days in advance of the event.